
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5572

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Snyder, Winsley and Oke)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to permissible highway signs; and amending RCW
2 47.42.040.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.42.040 and 1991 c 94 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 It is declared to be the policy of the state that no signs which
7 are visible from the main traveled way of the interstate system,
8 primary system, or scenic system shall be erected or maintained except
9 the following types:

10 (1) Directional or other official signs or notices that are
11 required or authorized by law including signs with the Crime Stoppers
12 name, logo, and telephone number;

13 (2) Signs advertising the sale or lease of the property upon which
14 they are located;

15 (3) Signs advertising activities conducted on the property on which
16 they are located;

17 (4) Signs, not inconsistent with the policy of this chapter and the
18 national policy set forth in section 131 of title 23, United States
19 Code as codified and enacted by Public Law 85-767 and amended only by

1 section 106, Public Law 86-342, and the national standards promulgated
2 thereunder by the secretary of commerce or the secretary of
3 transportation, advertising activities being conducted at a location
4 within twelve miles of the point at which such signs are located:
5 PROVIDED, That no sign lawfully erected pursuant to this subsection
6 adjacent to the interstate system and outside commercial and industrial
7 areas shall be maintained by any person after three years from May 10,
8 1971;

9 (5) Signs, not inconsistent with the policy of this chapter and the
10 national policy set forth in section 131 of title 23, United States
11 Code as codified and enacted by Public Law 85-767 and amended only by
12 section 106, Public Law 86-342, and the regulations promulgated
13 thereunder by the secretary of commerce or the secretary of
14 transportation, designed to give information in the specific interest
15 of the traveling public: PROVIDED, That no sign lawfully erected
16 pursuant to this subsection adjacent to the interstate system and
17 outside commercial and industrial areas shall be maintained by any
18 person after three years from May 10, 1971;

19 (6) Signs lawfully in existence on October 22, 1965, determined by
20 the commission, subject to the approval of the United States secretary
21 of transportation, to be landmark signs, including signs on farm
22 structures or natural surfaces, of historic or artistic significance
23 the preservation of which would be consistent with the purposes of
24 chapter 47.42 RCW;

25 (7) Public service signs, located on school bus stop shelters,
26 which:

27 (a) Identify the donor, sponsor, or contributor of said shelters;

28 (b) Contain safety slogans or messages which occupy not less than
29 sixty percent of the area of the sign;

30 (c) Contain no other message;

31 (d) Are located on school bus shelters which are authorized or
32 approved by city, county, or state law, regulation, or ordinance, and
33 at places approved by the city, county, or state agency controlling the
34 highway involved; and

35 (e) Do not exceed thirty-two square feet in area. Not more than
36 one sign on each shelter may face in any one direction.

37 Subsection (7) of this section notwithstanding, the department of
38 transportation shall adopt regulations relating to the appearance of
39 school bus shelters, the placement, size, and public service content of

1 public service signs located thereon, and the prominence of the
2 identification of the donors, sponsors, or contributors of the
3 shelters((-))i

4 (8) Temporary agricultural directional signs, with the following
5 restrictions:

6 (a) Signs shall be posted only during the period of time the
7 seasonal agricultural product is being sold;

8 (b) Signs shall not be placed adjacent to the interstate highway
9 system unless the sign qualifies as an on-premise sign;

10 (c) Signs shall not be placed within an incorporated city or town;

11 (d) Premises on which the seasonal agricultural products are sold
12 must be within fifteen miles of the state highway, and necessary
13 supplemental signing on local roads must be provided before the
14 installation of the signs on the state highway;

15 (e) Signs must be located so as not to restrict sight distances on
16 approaches to intersections;

17 (f) The department shall establish a permit system and fee schedule
18 and rules for the manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of these
19 signs in accordance with the policy of this chapter;

20 (g) Signs in violation of these provisions shall be removed in
21 accordance with the procedures in RCW 47.42.080;

22 Only signs of types 1, 2, 3, 7, and 8 may be erected or maintained
23 within view of the scenic system. Signs of types 7 and 8 may also be
24 erected or maintained within view of the federal aid primary system.

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